

REMARKS

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

Specification Amendments

Headings in the specification on pages 1, 3, 4 and 6 have been added and/or amended for clarity.

The specification has been amended at pages 4, 5, 7, 19, 20, 23 and 24 to reference the SEQ ID NO's associated with nucleotide and amino acid sequences disclosed in Figures 2, 3 and 7. The SEQ ID NO's corresponding to the nucleotide and amino acid sequences shown in the Figures is summarized in the following table.

Figure Number	Nucleotide SEQ ID NO:	Amino Acid SEQ ID NO:
2	SEQ ID NO: 1	SEQ ID NO: 2
3	SEQ ID NO: 3	SEQ ID NO: 4
7	SEQ ID NO: 5	SEQ ID NO: 6

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that each of the soluble gp130 molecules consists of the extracellular domains D1-D3 of gp130 or mutants or fragments thereof that maintain the ability to inhibit the activity of the agonistic complex Il-6/sIL-6R. Support for this recitation can be found for example at page 6, 4th paragraph, third sentence.

Claims 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12 and 13 have been amended to depend from claim 1. Support for these recitations can be found for example in the corresponding original claims.

Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to recite that the soluble gp130 molecules comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2. SEQ ID NO: 2 is the amino acid sequence disclosed in Figure 2. As such, support for these recitations can be found for example in the corresponding original claims.

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In claims 9, 10 and 12 the phrase “comprising” has been changed to “containing” for clarity. Support for these recitations can be found for example in the corresponding original claims.

Claim 11 has been amended to depend from claim 10. Support for this recitation can be found for example in original claim 11.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants submit this Preliminary Amendment prior to the examination of this application on the merits. Since the present amendment does not introduce new matter, Applicants respectfully request its entry prior to examination of the present application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, including petition fees and extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 23-2415 (Docket No. 31304-763.831).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 22, 2005

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